



August 3, 2007

Hon. Henry A Waxman
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Waxman:

The Natural Resources Defense Council is pleased to offer our support for the legislation you are introducing to accelerate the phase-out of chemicals that are contributing to depletion of the ozone layer and to global warming. This bill will help hasten the recovery of the ozone layer and slow the growth of global warming pollution.

The bill's findings recognize that the phase-out of ozone-depleting chemicals under the Clean Air Act and the Montreal Protocol has avoided catastrophic health and environmental impacts due to ozone stratospheric depletion and set the ozone layer on a pathway to recovery. Eliminating CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals has had double benefits because these chemicals are also potent greenhouse gases. As a result, the Clean Air Act and the Montreal Protocol have also significantly delayed the onset of global warming. The bill recognizes that further reductions in ozone depletion and global warming can and must be achieved by hastening the phase-out and limiting emissions of chemicals that remain in use today, principally the HCFCs (hydrochlorofluorocarbons) and HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons).

The bill assists efforts to strengthen the Montreal Protocol by expressing the Sense of the Congress in favor of accelerating the HCFC phase-out schedule in both developed and developing countries.

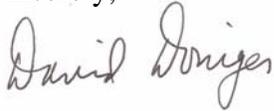
The bill establishes concrete measures to further reduce the production and emission of these chemicals. One important provision bans the import of products (such as window air conditioners) containing HCFCs as of 2010. Domestic manufacture of these products containing HCFCs is already prohibited as of that date; this measure will assure a level playing field with regard to products manufactured and imported from other countries.

Other provisions create critical incentives to recover and destroy banks of pre-existing CFCs and other ozone-depleting chemicals in old equipment that, if untended, will leak into the atmosphere. The incentive is created by requiring recovery and destruction of such banks by companies wishing to produce new quantities of certain chemicals.

The bill extends existing provisions for recovery and recycling to cover substitutes ozone-depleting chemicals and creates a new mechanism to encourage recovery of chemicals at the end of equipment's useful life. Recovery and recycling of old refrigerants has been an important and effective way to keep CFCs out of the atmosphere. Extending this requirement to all members of the HFC and HCFC family will increase ozone and climate protection benefits.

NRDC is pleased to support this legislation and to work with you and other interests to enact it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Doniger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "D" at the beginning.

David D. Doniger
Policy Director
NRDC Climate Center